Reforms

Appointment of special officer to collect information for the Simon Commission.

*1665 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether a special officer for reforms was appointed to collect information necessary for the Simon Commission;

(b) the name of the special officer and the period or periods for which he worked as such;

(c) the nature of the information gathered;

(d) whether all, or any of his collections are printed; and

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table copies of those collections for the information of the members of this Council?

A.—(a) Two Special Officers were appointed for the purpose.

(b) Mr. G. T. Boag, I.C.S., and Mr. S. V. Ramamurti, I.C.S. Mr. Boag worked for six months and Mr. Ramamurti for five months and one day.

(c) The information gathered relates to facts and figures necessary to enable the provincial and central Governments as well as the Commission to form a clear picture of the operation of the Government of India Act and of the system of administration set up under it during the period under review, and to appreciate the conditions under which the reformed constitution has worked.

(d) All of them are printed.

(e) The memoranda containing the collections will not be laid on the table by this Government for the reason that they were addressed to the Commission. The Government are prepared to ascertain from the Commission whether they have any objection to the publication of these Memoranda and if they have not, the Government is prepared to supply a complete set to any hon. Member of this House that applied for it.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to answer (b), I find that the period of service of Mr. Ramamurti was less than that of Mr. Boag by nearly a month. I want to know whether it is due to the fact that Mr. Ramamurti was recruited late or whether his services were terminated earlier than those of Mr. Boag."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I must ask notice of the question. I do not remember."

Secretariat

Appointment of Revenue Assistant Secretary.

*1666 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Revenue Assistant Secretary is vacating his seat shortly; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to consider the claims of the communities which have not secured representation in the cadre of Assistant Secretary to Government, especially, the Muslims?

2nd March 1929]

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Please see the answer to (*a*). I may inform the hon. Member however that the Government have decided that the proposed rule of communal rotation should not apply to the post of Assistant Secretary in the Government Secretariats.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I put a supplementary question to one of the questions previously answered ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Under what Standing Order ?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"According to the conventional practice that exists in this House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am not aware of any such practice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"If a Member is absent when his question is called, he is allowed the privilege of putting supplementary questions after all the questions on the order paper are disposed of."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is evidently not aware of the changes that have been introduced by me in the matter of putting questions. The rules were changed more than a year ago. I changed the rule with a view to discourage the absence of hon. Members when they have got questions, entered in the list, against their names. The hon. Member did not even intimate to me the reasons for his unavoidable absence from the Council at 11 o'clock."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I shall state now, Sir."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now resume the general discussion on the budget."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Mr. President, we are told that the opening balance for the budget year is Rs. 400·59 lakhs, that the revenue is Rs. 1,807·09 lakhs, and that the expenditure is Rs. 1,843·23 lakhs. Thus it would appear that the normal expenditure for the year is only Rs. 1,726·10 lakhs and that new proposals are being introduced in the budget to the extent of Rs. 117·13 lakhs. There is nothing to be said with regard to new proposals which were either recommended by this House or approved of by a resolution of the House. Some of the new proposals with regard to Public Health, Veterinary and Education are very desirable ones except where provisions are made for building purposes.

"I want to draw the attention of the House to the revenue and expenditure of previous years. In the year, 1889-90 we had a revenue of Rs. 294 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 279 lakhs ; in the year 1899-1900—Rs. 317 lakhs revenue and 335 lakhs of rupees expenditure. In the year 1909-10 we had a revenue of Rs. 598 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 585 lakhs. In 1919-20, ten years after, we had a revenue of Rs. 954 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 959 lakhs.